



The St. Mark Messenger

Monthly Edition

January 2009

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10: 24-25

"Our Solemn Vow"

In accordance with [Article II, Section I of the United States Constitution](#), each president begins his or "her" presidency with the following oath:

"I (full, given name) do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

At noon, Monday, January 20, 2009, Barack Hussein Obama, took the oath to become the 44th president of our nation. This compassionate, articulate, intelligent man of African heritage made history, becoming the first African American sworn into the office of president. An estimated 1.8 million people attended his inauguration, a record breaking number for any event in our nation's capitol; while tens of millions sat captivated in front of televisions on every continent around the world. This historical moment was the culmination of four days of inaugural events held throughout the DC area, open and accessible to everyone. As he had done throughout his campaign, President Obama wanted his inauguration to be less about Washington insiders and more about us, the people of this Nation. He is truly is "our" president.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians (5:13 and 14) he wrote, "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." President Barack Hussein Obama heeded the call to serve America.

January 20 was particularly inspiring for most African Americans. To our youth President Obama represents the reward of stewardship, sacrifice and perseverance; and to others, especially our heroic sojourners for civil rights, he represents a triumphant step towards their dream of freedom, justice and equality for all. Now, what about us? What can we do to make a difference? What will be our solemn vow, our oath?

We can begin with earnest prayer for President Obama and every citizen of our great Nation, even those with whom we disagree. We can make an ongoing commitment of our time and our resources. We can support the ministries of St. Mark and other communities of faith; and we can volunteer our time and talent in support of the many non-profit organizations throughout Greenville County.

The memory of January 20, 2009, will be forever mark as one of the most remarkable days in United States history. Several members of the St. Mark family were blessed to be there. **Hear from them in their own words:**

"My grandson, Antavious (A.J.), my special friend, Horace Gillins and I traveled to Washington to witness an exciting and historic moment in history. We stood in line for five hours, toes and hands frozen, to go through the check point to see the parade. It was worth the wait because we saw President Obama and first lady Mrs. Michelle Obama walk down Pennsylvania Avenue. What an amazing moment! We made a pack that if President Obama is re-elected, we will do this again. This was an experience we will never forget."

Mickey Grayson

"This was a very special event for our family. I think the most important aspect of this trip was being among people of all races from all across the country, all on one accord. We were "blessed" with tickets to get into the Inauguration ceremony, so we were up and in line by 5:00am. The lines were long!! But there were no complaints and everyone was excited and full of joy. While standing in line surrounded by families of different races and from different countries everyone was just talking about a new start, and how we all can come together as one. It was awesome and again we thank God for the opportunity to be in the midst."

*The Thompson Family
Chris, Cynthia, Rikita & Christopher, Jr*

"For us, the inauguration was about family. Sharing the weekend with our DC family; the eight-hour road trips there and back; meeting families from Alaska, families from Hawaii, families from California, even families from England. This was clearly a time for togetherness to be shared with those you love. We made the unusual decision to go into DC on Monday, MLK Day rather than Tuesday. Before leaving we were blessed to watch the CNN rebroadcast of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, in its entirety!! That really set the tone for the sights and sounds we were about to witness honoring Dr. King and President-elect Obama. I thank God that we were blessed to be a part of history."

Calvin & Juana Slade

7:14 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

Corporate prayer is an essential part of church life here at St. Mark. Each Saturday morning the 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Group meets to pray for wisdom, guidance, direction and blessings for our church. Now is the time to lift up the needs of our church and community. It is also a time to join with fellow believers in a time of thanks and praise for all of the things God has done.

Please commit; make the sacrifice. We need you there at 7:14 am.

Power Hour

Engaging God's Power to teach the people, reach the people and to leave our Mark on the world
Every Sunday - 10am to 11am

Do you want to understand more about the word of God and His call upon your life? Do you want to spend study time with fellow believers? Do you want to make a difference in the community and world? If so, "Power Hour is the answer. Power Hour, 60 transformational minutes to teach the word, reach the people and leave a mark on the world.

Children & Youth --- Celebrate. Learn. Share.

This month our "younger" Saints will commemorate Black History Month with a special presentation during worship service Sunday, February 22nd --- "**Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Tribute to James Weldon Johnson**". The youth will pay homage to Mr. Johnson with a presentation of one his most famous works, "The Creation." The children will render a special song in an African language, taught and directed by our very own Pastor Watts. To help them learn and understand the meaning of "The Creation", their lessons this month are being taught from the book of Genesis. Other activities will arts & crafts, music and movement, games, etc.

Power Learning Lab

Take a tour of "The Power Learning Lab" a newly designed area to enhance their learning of the Books of the Bible, the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, the 23rd Psalms and much, much more! The Learning Lab will be open every 4th Sunday during Power Hour.

Coins for Caring

It's never too early to become a good steward. Each Sunday, two "Coins for Caring" --- one for youth and one for children---will be placed in the Educational Wing. The children and youth will be encouraged to deposit their coins in care of others. At the end of each quarter coins will be counted and donated to our mission ministry. Parents, we need your support too!

Who Am I?

Youth, do you know your Black History? Each Sunday this month, information about a well-known African Americans will be posted on the Education bulletin. Think you know the answer? Email your response to powerhour@bellsouth.net by the following Wednesday @ 4:00pm for a chance to win a prize. The winner will be announced at the end of Bible Study on Wednesday and their name posted on the board.

Adult – Topical Discussions

One Month to Live – *If you knew you only had one month to live what would you do to make what's left of your life really matter?* This six-week session will give you eye-opening insights and soul- inspiring truths that will challenge you to live each day to the fullest. If you are ready to learn how to Live Passionately – Love Completely – Learn Humbly and Leave Boldly then I encourage you to participate. The classes are held every 2nd & 4th Sunday in Room 108. All adults are welcome

Facilitators: Ruby Lewers & Robert Gregory

Serious Answers for Hard Questions – This class is designed for **men** who want to study and find the answers to the unique challenges and questions life presents them. In this thought-provoking and inspiring course, ten leading scholars, world experts in their fields and

people of faith, address ten issues that present serious obstacles to many both in and outside of the church. This class will be held every 1st & 3rd Sunday in Room 108. **Sorry ladies; this course is for men only.** Facilitators: Chris Thompson & Mack Culbertson

Of course, adult classes are offered every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall for traditional study.

Facilitators: Aaron Fuller & Mack Culbertson

Each One – Reach One Community Lunch Day

The Power Team is hosting a community lunch **Saturday, February 21, 12 – 2 pm at the St. Mark Community Center.** Each member of the church is invited to invite someone to lunch, especially our guests and inactive members. Here's an opportunity to get acquainted with new friends and reconnect with those who may have been away for awhile. Don't miss a relaxing afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Remember each one must reach one. For more information contact Power Team Leader Penny Henderson @ 244-0139 or pehenderson@bellsouth.net

GREETERS ANYONE?

Part of a vital congregational and community ministry is determined by the way we welcome everyone entering our doors. Do we encourage our guests to return? Better yet, do we encourage them to become members? Beginning Sunday, January 4, we will re-introduce our "Greeter's Ministry."

To volunteer, contact Bobbie Jones, chairperson of Worship at 268-7088. "Special" thanks to those who have agreed to serve through March and to those who serve throughout the coming year!

FLOWER FUND

Help beautify the sanctuary, contribute to the "Flower Fund!" For a \$50 donation, flowers can be placed on the altar in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one or special event. Orders must be placed, **paid for** in advance, and all checks should be made payable to St. Mark UMC. For more information, contact the Church Office.

MUSIC NOTES

With five choirs, a praise team and a 28-member orchestra, music is one of our congregation's most vibrant and active areas of ministry. This is our schedule of ministry

Margaret Grayson, Director of Music

Every Sunday: The Vessels of Praise

First Sunday: The Chancel Choir, Anthony Jackson, Musician

Second Sunday: The Voices of Hope, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

The Inspirational Choir, Dwight Woods, Musician; Ruby Lewers, Director

Third Sunday: The Chancel Choir, Anthony Jackson, Musician
The Inspirational Choir, Dwight Woods, Musician; Ruby Lewers, Director

Fourth Sunday: The St. Mark Orchestra, John DeVore, Conductor
The Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

Fifth Sundays
March: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

May: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Voices of Hope, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

August: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

November: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Voices of Hope, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

FIRST, THE WORD!

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15 (King James)*

Bible study is an important aspect of Christian life. God charges us to be "workers" for Him; so we should build His word into our lives. "The Word" alone tells us how to live for Him and serve Him. Consistent and diligent study of God's word is vital; otherwise we will be lulled into neglecting God and our true purpose for living.

There are three options for weekly Bible Study on the St. Mark – St. Matthew Charge:

Tuesday, 10 am, St. Mark – "Companions in Christ"
Wednesday, 1 pm, St. Matthew – Bible Study
Wednesday, 6:30 pm, St. Mark – Bible Study

Please pray God's blessings on the study life of St. Mark and our "sister church" St. Matthew

THE MONTH AT-A-GLANCE.....

Stay informed! Post "St. Mark on the Move" on your refrigerator, message board or any noticeable location. See you there!

Week of February 1

Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
9:45 am	Power Hour	
10 am	United Methodist Men's Meeting	Conference Room
10 am	Power Hour – "One Month to Live" Introduction	Room 108
10:15 am	Lift Every Voice.....Rehearsal	Sanctuary

4 pm United Methodist Women's Meeting

Monday

6:30 pm St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

10 am Companions in Christ

6 pm Little Miss and Master ...Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday

5 pm VOH Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall

6:30 pm UM Youth Meeting Rehearsal Hall

6:30 pm Bible Study Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm District Outreach Workshop New Beginnings

7:30 pm Lift Every Voice...Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday

11:30 am Website Deadline

6 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall

Saturday

7:14 am 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Sanctuary

10:30 am VOH Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall

12 :15 pm Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal Room 104

5 pm Inspirational Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal

Week of February 8

Sunday

8 am Praise & Worship

8:15 am Morning Worship

9:45 am Power Hour (Traditional Adult Class) Fellowship Hall

9:45 am Power Hour: "One Month to Live" (Topical Adult Class) Room 108

10:15 am Lift Every Voice...Rehearsal Sanctuary

12:30 pm UniverSoul Circus Greenville Stadium

Mission Visit Reid Nursing Home

Monday

5:30 pm Native American Ministry Meeting

6 pm Missions Committee Meeting

6:30 pm St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

10 am Companions in Christ Fellowship Hall

6:30-8 pm Mission's Workshop-Ken Nelson Facilitator St. Matthew UMC

Wednesday

6:30 pm Bible Study Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm District Nurture Workshop Easley Chapel UMC

7:30 pm Lift Every Voice...Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday

11:30 am Website Deadline

6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

Saturday

7:14 am 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Sanctuary
12 pm Vessels of Praise Rehearsal Room 104
5 pm Inspirational Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall

Week of February 15

Sunday

8 am Praise & Worship
8:15 am Morning Worship
9:45 am Power Hour
9:45 am Power Hour: "Serious Answers for Tough Questions (Adult Men's Class)" Room 108
Usher's Meeting
10:15 am Lift Every Voice...Rehearsal Sanctuary

Monday

6:30 pm St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

10 am Companions in Christ
6:30 pm Council on Ministries Conference Room

Wednesday

5:30 pm Membership Committee
6:30pm Bible Study Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm Lift Every Voice...Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday

11:30 am Website Deadline

Saturday

7:14 am 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Sanctuary
10 am District Finance Workshop John Wesley UMC
10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall
12 pm Vessel's of Praise Rehearsal Hall
12 pm "Each One-Reach One Community Lunch Day" St. Mark Community Ctr
12:30 pm Brownie Troop 462 Meeting Fellowship Hall

Week of February 22

Sunday

8 am Praise & Worship
8:15 am Morning Worship
9:45 am Power Hour (Traditional Adult Class) Fellowship Hall
9:45 am Power Hour: "One Month to Live" Room 108

Monday

6:30 pm St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

10 am Companions in Christ

Wednesday
7 pm

Joint Ash Wednesday Service

St. Matthew UMC

Thursday

11:30 am Website Deadline
6 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
5 pm V.O.H. Choir Rehearsal
7 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Rehearsal Hall
Rehearsal Hall
Conference Room

Saturday

7:14 am 7:14 Intercessory Prayer

Sanctuary

AROUND THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

"Keeping you in touch with key events and activities"

February 7

AIDS Awareness Walk, - 10am

**Sterling Community Center
Greenville**

February 14

Ebony Fashion Fair - 8 pm

Bethlehem Baptist, Simpsonville

February 21

District Finance Workshop – 10 am

John Wesley UMC

February 21

Each One-Reach One Community Lunch – 12 pm

Fellowship Hall

March 29

Little Miss and Master St. Mark Celebration

Sanctuary

If you have information that you would like to share with the St. Mark Church family, please submit all information to the church secretary or any member of The St. Mark Messenger staff no later than the 4th Sunday of each month. *Items will be printed at the discretion of The Messenger staff.*

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

St. Mark United Methodist Church salutes the brave men and women in the armed forces and around the world. We remember them in our prayers. These are the members of SMC in active duty.

US Marines

Marshall Grayson

Army National Guard Reserves

Willie P. Rowe

US Navy Reserves

Bryant Simmons

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

Safety Seat Inspections

Free safety seat inspections for children ages 13 and under are available at several locations throughout the Upstate by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 454-1109 or go to

www.safekidsupstate.org/inspection_station.php<http://www.safekidsupstate.org/inspection_station.php>.

Inspections take 20 to 30 minutes per seat and include teaching caregivers how to install the car seats correctly.

Activate Upstate

Sign up at www.activateupstate.org<<http://www.activateupstate.org>> for this free, year-round healthy living program of health talks, counseling and monthly weigh-ins. The goal is to get 30 minutes of exercise a day, five days a week.

Spring Training

Walk the Greenville Drive's warning track at Flour Field at the West End between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (non-game days only). One mile equals 4.5 laps!

February 2009 At-A-Glance

Worship Support

Sunday, February 1

Greeters

Juana Slade
Penny Henderson

Announcer

Rosylin Weston

AV Technicians

Calvin Slade

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, February 8

Greeters

Jean Greer
Gwendolyn Mayes

AV Technicians

Calvin Slade

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, February 15

Greeters

Rene Murry
Linda Pendergrass

AV Technicians

Calvin Slade
William Marshall

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, February 22

Greeters

Scotty Freeman
Margaret D. Freeman

Announcer

Lasonia Williams

AV Technicians

Calvin Slade

Nursery Attendant

TAKE NOTE

Take note of the Trustee's Weekly Schedule. For more information contact Margaret V. Freeman at 244-0673

Monday	Royce Freeman	244-0640
Tuesday	CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE	
Wednesday	Twana Cruell	268-7476
Thursday	Margaret V. Freeman	244-0673
Friday	CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE	
Saturday		
Sunday		

***For special access on Tuesday or Friday contact Margaret V. Freeman at the number listed above.*

Sick & Shut-Ins

*Please remember our sick and shut-in members with your prayers, cards, telephone calls, and visits. **Contact the church office administrator at 848-7141** with information regarding all church family illnesses and bereavement.*

<i>Mr. Harold Cheeks – Belaire Place, 23 Southpointe Drive Rm. # 115, Greenville 29607</i>	<i>234-9542</i>
<i>Rev. Oliver N. Greer – 317 Garrett Street, Mauldin 29662</i>	<i>234-7341</i>
<i>Mrs. Minnie Louther – Residence Unknown</i>	
<i>Mrs. Edna McMahand – 200 McAlister Road Apt. 245, Greenville 29607</i>	<i>242-2078</i>
<i>Mr. Donald Talley – 3204 Culpepper Crossing, Duncan 29334</i>	<i>486-9472</i>
<i>Mrs. Ella Mae Whiteside – 202 Frank Street, Greenville 29601</i>	<i>271-1537</i>
<i>Mrs. Lillian McKinney- 5501 Hwy 101 North, Taylors, 29687</i>	<i>895-1933</i>

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Evelyn Anderson
2/1 Shakeyla Freeman
2/2 Mildred Turner
2/2 Scotasia Watson
2/3 Kristen Harrison
2/3 Shannon Murry-Jackson
2/5 Johnie DeVore, Jr.
2/6 Justin Ray
2/7 Kelly Garrison
2/7 Timberlin King
2/8 Antwan Cruell
2/8 Daree McDonald
2/8 Terry Watson
2/11 Margaret Grayson
2/11 Derek McGowan
2/12 Toshia Coulter
2/13 Betty Watson
2/14 Tony Ballenger
2/14 Alexis Dillard
2/15 Sharie Griffin
2/16 Niyah Kelly
2/18 Sandra Cheek
2/18 James Murray
2/18 Sammuel Owens
2/22 Harold Black
2/22 Othella Brown
2/22 William Edwards, Jr.
2/22 John Garrison
2/22 Tressa Henderson
2/23 Deborah McGowan

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSERIES

2/7 Royce & Harold Freeman
2/10 Latoyia & Benjamine Kelly
2/13 Shuarica & Scott Watson
2/28 Adriaenne & Rufus McMahand

2/26 Mildred Ballenger
2/27 Sandi Lechner
2/27 LaPayton Leggett
2/28 Minnie Louther

GETTING YOU CONNECTED!

All student recognitions, achievements, and other accomplishments will be announced on 4th Sunday only. Parents and students please get this information to the Church office by Thursday before the 4th Sunday

If you're interested in receiving church information via the **Internet** please e-mail your request to stmarkkc@charter.net.

DEADLINES! Don't forget---the deadline for newsletter articles is the 4th Sunday in each month. Articles may be submitted to any member of the Messenger Staff, and we respectfully reserve the right to review and edit all copies.

Church news at your finger tips. Visit the new **St. Mark Info Line**. This telephone service features voicemail, weekly activities and Sunday school updates. Simply dial the church's main number, 864-848-7141, and follow the prompts.

Visit St. Mark United Methodist Church on the web www.stmarktaylorssc.com

Web News:

PRAYER

Just call---someone will answer. The Upper Room Prayer Center is only a call away. Call anytime/anywhere and someone will pray with or for you.

1-800-251-2468